

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SEOUL 7518

STATE FOR CU/EA

USIA FOR IEA, ICS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KS (PEARSON, NORMAN H.)

SUBJECT: ASP: NORMAN H. PEARSON

1. NORMAN H. PEARSON SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A NINE-DAY VISIT TO KOREA SEPTEMBER 14-23 -- GIVING LECTURES, PARTICIPATING IN SEMINARS AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, AND CONSULTING WITH SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS, OFF AS WELL AS ON CAMPUS. SOLIDLY PROFESSIONAL IN HIS FIELD OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE, WARM, WITTY AND OUTGOING IN HIS CONTACT WITH KOREANS, AND WELL ABLE COMMUNICATE HIS ENTHUSIASM AS WELL AS HIS KNOWLEDGE.

2. AS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT 10TH ANNUAL AND 3RD REGIONAL AMERICAN STUDIES SEMINAR IN SONGNISAN, HE WAS EFFECTIVE IN COMMUNICATING BASIC DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES IN BOTH FORMAL DELIBERATIONS AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS (SEE FM 50).

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3. IN TAEGU HE LECTURED ON ROLE OF POETRY AND HIS PRESENCE DREW NEARLY ALL AMERICAN LITERATURE PROFESSORS FROM SEVERAL CAMPUSES, DESPITE HEAVY RAIN. ACC DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID LECTURE WAS BEST OF ITS KIND AND ONE OF BEST PROGRAMS ACC HAS EVER HAD.

4. AT SEOUL ACC PEARSON GAVE LECTURE OF THE GREAT GATSBY BEFORE MEMBERS ENGLISH LITERARY SOCIETY, AGAIN DRAWING LARGE CROWD INFLUENTIAL AND WELL ESTABLISHED PROFESSORS IN VARIOUS FIELDS AMERICAN STUDIES; IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITH A SCHOLAR OF LESS STATURE. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR PROFESSOR, PEARSON IS CONSIDERED "THE GODFATHER" OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN KOREA, GIVING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM IN KOREA.

5. AT EWAH UNIVERSITY 250 GIRL STUDENTS CAME TO HIS LECTURE ON THE GREAT GATSBY, RESPONDED WITH EFFUSIVE PRAISE FOR HIS PRESENTATION. PROFESSOR ASKED FOR AND USIS RESPONDED IN SECOND PRINTING OF PEARSON LECTURE, TO BE USED IN ALL JUNIOR AND SENIOR LITERATURE CLASSES. AT SOGANG UNIVERSITY, PEARSON MET WITH SMALLER NUMBER STUDENTS WHERE HE CONCENTRATED ON SUCH AMERICAN WRITERS AS BELLOW, CUMMINGS, FAULKNER, ETC.

6. DURING HIS STAY HERE HE ALSO CALLED ON MIN/ED WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN EXCHANGING CORRESPONDENCE IN PAST FIVE YEARS, MET WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AT SNU ON PROSPECT ESTABLISHING AN AMERICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE AT KOREA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY.

7. HE HAS GUEST AT A LUNCHEON AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WITH KEY KOREAN AMERICAN STUDIES LEADERS.

8. POST WOULD RATE PEARSON'S VISIT EXCELLENT IN QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE, EFFECTIVENESS OF DISCUSSION, AND RELATEDNESS TO CP OBJECTIVES. WOULD WELCOME BACK AT ANY TIME.
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